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Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Special Envoy proposes political dialogue for democratic convergence in Haiti; says initiative is timely because of danger of political vacuum in country; meeting might be convened early next week.

+ Security Council, in Presidential Statement today, condemns recent massacre near Harbel, Liberia, of innocent displaced persons; warns that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law will be held accountable.

+ Security Council, in first of three Presidential statements yesterday, condemns attack against Pakistani and Malaysian UNTAC troops; warns those who threaten United Nations personnel and Cambodian democracy.

+ Security Council calls on Krajina Serbs to resume talks with Government of Croatia on cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of arms, as demanded by Council under resolution 802 (1993).

+ Criminal attack on civilian train by UNITA strongly condemned by Security Council; stresses that those responsible must be held accountable.

+ UNOSOM to carry out operations from Force Headquarters in Mogadishu following Saturday's attack on peace-keepers in that city; Special Representative Howe says consolidation will improve functioning of United Nations agencies in Somalia.

+ Secretary-General, in Paris, meets with Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference and Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding; meets also with French Ministers.

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The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo, today proposed, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), a political dialogue towards "a democratic convergence" in Haiti. He said that the country's constitutional authorities supported the

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initiative and added that a meeting might be convened early next week, depending on the responses from the various parties concerned.

The dialogue should bring together the main political forces in Haiti and the representatives of the Presidential Commission, he went on to say. Participants should state publicly beforehand their acceptance of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as Haiti's legitimate constitutional President.

The Special Envoy said that in order to prevent the use of the initiative as a delaying tactic, participants should agree to promote: a return to constitutional rule through the ratification of a Prime Minister nominated by President Aristide; the physical return of the President; constitutional changes in the High Command of the Haitian Armed Forces; and legal instruments for national reconciliation and procedures for professionalizing the Armed Forces and establishing a new police force. Mr. Caputo warned that an "ephemeral political solution would plunge us into a new abyss".

In response to questions, he said that the initiative was timely because of the possibility of a "vacuum of power" following the resignation of Marc Bazin as prime minister of the de facto government in Haiti. He added that political support for the military regime had become weakened and divided.

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The Security Council, in a Presidential Statement issued this afternoon, condemned the massacre near Harbel, Liberia, on 6 June, of innocent displaced persons, including women and children, and warned that those responsible for such serious violations of international humanitarian law would be held accountable.

According to the statement, read out by Council President Juan Antonio Yañez-Barneuvo (Spain), the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia, Trevor Gordon-Somers, was working to arrange a meeting of the warring factions in order to bring the three-year civil war to a peaceful end. The Council remained firmly supportive of the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Secretary-General to bring peace to Liberia. It urged all Liberian parties to support the peace efforts, including a cease-fire, encampment, disarmament and democratic elections.

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In the first of three Presidential statements issued last night, the Security Council condemned two armed attacks yesterday against Pakistani and Malaysian platoons of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), at which several personnel were injured.

The Council again warned that it would take appropriate measures against those who threatened the safety and security of UNTAC personnel and were trying to overturn the democratic process in Cambodia through violence. The Council took note of the Secretariat's preliminary report that the attack against the Pakistani compound was launched by the National Army of Democratic

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Kampuchea (NADK), but that the identity of the attackers in the second incident had not yet been determined. The Council asked the Secretary-General to continue the investigation and to report urgently on the outcome.

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In a second statement issued last night, the Security Council expressed deep concern over the failure of the Krajina Serbs to take part in talks on the implementation of resolution 802 of 1993. That resolution demanded that Croation forces in United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA) end hostilities and withdraw from those areas, and that the local Serbs return heavy weapons removed from the control of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The resolution also demanded that all parties comply with agreed cease-fire arrangements.

The Council urged all parties to resume talks immediately with a view to rapidly implementing resolution 802 (1993). Having examined the situation in the UNPAs in Croatia, the Council said it deplored the interruption of the dialogue, which had recently produced signs of progress.

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The Security Council last night strongly condemned the attack by the forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) on 27 May against a civilian train, which resulted in the death of 225 persons and several hundred wounded.

In its third statement last night, the Council repeated its demand that UNITA immediately cease its armed attacks and stressed that those responsible must be held accountable. It urged UNITA leaders to make sure that their forces abided by international humanitarian law, and it emphasized the imperative need for a cease-fire throughout the country.

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The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) will carry out its operations from Force Headquarters in Mogadishu following Saturday's "blatant, unprovoked" attack on UNOSOM forces in the city, according to a statement by the Secretary-General's Special Representative Jonathan Howe. The attacks, which killed 23 Pakistani peace-keepers, had robbed Mogadishu of its security and disrupted some relief activities in the city, but had not interrupted activities elsewhere in Somalia, he said.

The "consolidation" of United Nations personnel in Mogadishu would improve communications and coordination between United Nations agencies in Somalia and help UNOSOM to continue its work, according to Admiral Howe. UNOSOM is firmly committed to fulfilling its humanitarian responsibilities and is devoted to facilitating national reconciliation in Somalia, he stressed.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen this morning in Paris. They were later joined by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding.

The Secretary-General also met with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, whom he thanked for France's contribution to United Nations peace-keeping efforts in Cambodia, Somalia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr. Boutros-Ghali then had a working luncheon with the Minister of State and Defense with whom he discussed the implementation of resolution 836 (1993) and reviewed United Nations peace-keeping operations around the world, particularly in Cambodia, Somalia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Secretary-General also met with his Special Representative for Western Sahara, Sehabzada Yaqub-Khan, who briefed the Secretary-General on his latest meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco and on his talks with senior Moroccan Government officials. The Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with French President François Mitterrand later today, with Giscard d'Estaing, Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly and with the French Foreign Minister.

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